

the forests of Northern Europe would ever have emerged from barbarous simplicity had they remained unaffected by outside influences. But they possessed energy which could resist the gloom of their environment and touched by the glow of Roman civilization they assimilated knowledge and imitated accomplishments which speedily gave them the command of Nature.

The birthplaces of agriculture and of civilization have been treeless valleys. Such are Egypt and Mesopotamia. the expanses of Northern India and the densely inhabited portions of China. Far away across the ocean there were two other centres, the treeless upland valleys of Mexico and Peru. In all these localities cultivation reached a high pitch of efficiency.

But the regularity of an agricultural life may fatally reinforce the growth of habits.

Agriculturists are generally conservative in their opinions. Under a tropical sun, more especially, the spirit of changelessness cannot survive the cramping effect of custom: the people

become so inured to the monotony of peace as to be unable to rise to the exigencies of war, and helplessly suffer their fields to be trampled

by the feet of restless invaders. Hordes of these have been bred on the grazing lands which lie along and across the valley horizons. Pasture

must be searched for over vast areas of country at different seasons of the year, and a pastoral

life nourishes the spirit of adventure
by its hardships and its constant vicissitudes. The
Hebrews were trained for the conquest of
Palestine by their wanderings in the desert. Egypt
has constantly been overrun by Bedouin
tribes. India and China by Mongol races which have
swept eastwards and southwards from the
steppes of Tartary and Siberia. In our own time
we have